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Baptists . Vermont . Vermont Association .
Minutes . . . in Poultney, October 7 & 8, 1818.
Rutland, Vt., Fay & Burt, [1819]. 12 pp.
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MINUTES

OF THE

Vermont Baptist Association

HOLDEN AT THE

BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE,

IN

POULTNEY,

OCTOBER 7 & 8, 1818.

TOGETHER WITH THE

CIRCULAR AND CORRESPONDING

LETTER.

RUTLAND, Vt.

PRINTED BY FAY & BURT.

MINUTES, &c.

POULTNEY, WEDNESDAY, OCT. 7, 1818.

1. The Elders and Messengers composing the Association, convened at half past 10 o'clock, A. M. Introductory Prayer by Brother Luther Rice, and Sermon by Brother Abel Wood, from I. Cor. 10, 12.

2. Made choice of Brother Wm. Herenton, Moderator, and Brother J. W. Sawyer, Clerk. Adjourned half an hour. Met according to adjournment. Prayer by the Moderator.

3. Messengers from sister associations were invited to take a seat with us.

4. Proceeded to read the letters from the Churches, and took the following account of the members added, diminished, excluded, who have died the past year, and the present number of each Church.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS. Licentiates in *italics*. Ministers marked thus (*) were not present. From churches marked thus (†) we had no information this year. Vacant churches are distinguished by a dash (—)

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Add. by Bap.	Add. by Tet.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.
Hubbardton,	{ JOSEPH W. SAWYER, Dea. Silas Hall,	0	4	4	0	0	88
Brandon,	{ ISAAC SAWYER, Isaac Merriam, Peter Witt,	5	8	5	0	1	154
Whiting,	{ _____ Dea. Jonas Hubbard, Alanson A. Peck,	0	0	2	0	0	33
Pittsford,	{ WM. HERENTON, Arza Lee, Samuel Griggs,	1	0	5	0	1	124
Poultney,	{ C. KENDRICK,* Dea. John Jones, Dea. O. Sanford, Elisha Ashley,	3	0	6	6	6	174
Monkton,	{ _____ A Letter,	1	2	0	1	1	44
Rupert,	{ P. W. REYNOLDS, J. Shaw, J. A. Waldo,	11	4	0	0	0	172
Middletown,	{ _____ Dea. J. Brace, Dea. T. Hutchinson, D. Ward,	2	0	1	4	0	220
Bridport,	{ HENRY CHAMBERLAIN, Levi Baldwin, L. Baldwin, jr.	3	3	1	2	0	89
Cornwall,	{ HENRY GREEN, Dea. Ezra Allen, Job Witheril,	0	3	1	3	1	181
Bristol,	{ AMOS STEARNS, Amos Eastman,	5	0	3	1	0	44
Charlotte,	{ JOHN HOWARD,* S. Westcott,	0	0	5	2	0	35
Granville,	{ J. Brown, J. Dayton, R. Harvey,	0	0	0	0	1	26

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Add. by Bap.	Add. by Let.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Died.	Total.
Dorset,	{ C. M. FULLER, Dea. Isaac Gray,	6	4	0	1	1	39
Orwell,	{ _____ Dea. Ichabod Higgins,	0	0	7	1	0	65
Hinesburgh,	{ Edmund Baldwin,	8	8	0	0	0	84
Middlebury,	{ Lemuel Phelps,	0	1	0	0	0	48
Shoreham,	{ JOHN SPAULDING, Dea. J. Baker, J. Boyder,	4	3	6	2	2	111
Benson,	{ _____ Dea. E. Goodrich, J. Carter,	1	0	0	0	0	63
Ira,	{ WM. M'CULLER,* Dea. H. Horton, Dea. J. Calkins,	0	3	5	6	0	199
Panton,	{ J. H. DWYER,* J. White, A. G. Shepherd,	1	0	9	0	0	67
Addison,	{ ABEL WOOD, Dea. R. Smith, Wm. Whitford,	0	3	4	3	0	167
W. Clarendon,	{ _____ Dea. C. Matterson, Dea. Thomas Tower,	0	0	5	2	1	46
W. Haven,	{ JOHN STEARNS, Dea. S. Adams, Joel Stephens,	0	2	4	2	0	38
Hampton,	{ ELIHU MILLER,* E. W. MARTIN, Dea. S. Bartholomew,	2	3	3	1	0	114
Ferrisburgh,	{ EPHRAIM BUTLER,* A. Fuller, M. Fuller,	3	2	16	1	0	90
N. Haven, &	{ _____ Amos Marsh,	0	5	0	0	0	26
Weybridge,	{ J. Marsh.	56	58	92	38	9	2778
27 Ch's; 18 Ord. Ministers; 1 Liccn.							

5. The Circular and Corresponding Letter, prepared by brother Spaulding, was read and referred to a committee, viz. J. Stearns and J. W. Sawyer.

6. Received communications from the following Associations, viz.

Warren,	Minutes by J. Going.
Woodstock,	Minutes by S. Ewen, & Packard.
Shaftsbury,	C. M. Fuller, and Bucklin, with minutes.
Leydon,	No information.
Fairfield,	Minutes by Meers and Ravelin.
Essex,	No information.
Saratoga,	Minutes by H. Griswold.
Blackriver,	Minutes but no messenger.
Boston,	Minutes but no messenger.
Danville,	No information.
Otsego,	Minutes by brother Haskell.

7. Voted to open a correspondence with the Black River Association. Accordingly appointed brother C. M. Fuller, and John Conant.

8. Appointed the following brethren to corresponding Associations, viz.—to the

<i>Warren</i> —Elder Dana & Deacon Merriam,
<i>Woodstock</i> —Elders Fuller, and Bucklin,
<i>Shaftsbury</i> —Elder Isaac Sawyer, and Br. Elisha Ashley,
<i>Leyden</i> —Elder Seth Ewer,
<i>Fairfield</i> —Elders J. Stearns, J. W. Sawyer, & E. Butler.
<i>Essex</i> —Elders Wood, Chamberlain, Butler, & Spaulding,
<i>Saratoga</i> —Elders Kendrick, and Martin,
<i>Blackriver</i> —To embrace an opportunity to forward our minutes.

Boston—Elder Dana, and Dea. Merriam,

Danville—Elder Ravelin,

Otsego—Elders Wood and Martin.

9. By the particular request of Dorset and Rupert churches to be dismissed from this body, to join one recently established in their vicinity, voted to comply with their petition.

10. Voted to adjourn till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Sermons in different parts of the town in the evening, and at the meeting-house by brother Going—from Matthew 16, 24.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8.

Met according to adjournment. Opened by prayer by the Moderator. Entered upon business.

1. Heard from our committee appointed to examine the circular and corresponding Letter, to whom was referred also a query from Middletown Church. Voted to accept the Letter. Query as follows:

“What is the duty of a Church of Christ towards a Brother or Sister, who shall without regard to their covenant or the feelings of their Brethren, join themselves to another Church or Society, of another faith and order?”

Answer. *“It is the duty of a Church to use such endeavours to convince and reclaim him, as the best wisdom, and the situation of the Church may dictate: And if unsuccessful to withdraw their Church fellowship and watch care.”*

2 A communication from the Kentucky Mission Society was laid before the Association, desiring us to memorialize the Congress of the U. States for the security, preservation, and improvement of the American Indians—on which

Resolved, That we highly approve the design, and that that the Moderator and Clerk be directed to sign such a memorial in behalf of the Association.

The Missionary Board of Directors for the Association, beg leave to report, as follows:

On the subject of Domestic Missions—

There were in the funds Oct. 1, 1818,	\$ 149 20
Paid Br. Spaulding for six weeks labor,	30 00
Rec'd of churches and individuals this year,	102 25
Rec'd of Br. Spaulding, contributed on his mission,	12 17

Brother Spaulding made such returns to the board as were satisfactory of his tour to the north part of Vermont.

We have appointed for the year to come, Elder Wood, on a mission for eight weeks to the St. Lawrence.

Also, Elder Spaulding a tour of eight weeks to the same place.

Also appointed Elder J. W. Sawyer on a mission of eight weeks to the north part of Vermont and Lower Canada.

On the subject of Foreign Missions—

There were in the funds Oct. 2, 1818,	\$ 429 81
Rec'd of churches, Mite Societies & individuals, including interest on monies,	184 56
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	\$ 614 37
Sent to the treasurer of the Baptist board, for Foreign Missions,	100 00
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	\$ 514 37
Received one dollar donation,	1 00
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	\$ 515 37
Appropriated for Foreign Missions this year,	150 00
Received of the estate of Benj. Stephens late of Cornwall, deceased, by Sister Allen,	\$162 00
Directed the treasurer to forward the same to the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions.	

H. GREEN, *President.**Poultney, Oct. 8, 1818.*

The following is the report of the Treasurer of the Board of Domestic Missions.

THE BOARD CREDIT—

By the balance of monies remaining in the treasury after paying the appropriations of the past year, including S. Rowley's note,	\$46 94
Rec'd from Cornwall church & society,	4 00
Brandon, do do	7 46
Shoreham and Tycon'diroga, F. M. S.	6 89
Shoreham church and society,	2 85
F. M. Society in West Haven,	5 25
F. M. Society in Poultney,	5 00
F. M. Society in Bridport,	5 79
Hampton church and society,	5 92
F. M. Society in Panton,	11 00
F. M. Society in Orwell,	3 20
Poultney church and society,	4 00
Addison church and society,	5 15
F. M. Society in Benson,	2 62
Benson church and society,	1 50
F. M. Society in Granville,	17 12
Dea. Matterson, Tinmouth,	0 50
Hinesburgh church and society,	3 00

Monkton church and society,	\$ 3 84
F. M. Society in Hinesburgh,	7 67

Deduct for monies paid Elder Stone, for a tour by order of the Board,	\$ 149 20
	12 50
	\$ 136 70

Report of the Treasurer of the Board of Foreign Missions.

THE BOARD CREDIT—

Oct. 1817.	By Balance remaining in treasury,	\$329 81
	by cash from a young lad in N. Haven,	0 12 1-2
	by cash from a gentleman in N. Haven,	1 00
Feb. 1818.	by cash of Elder Culver, pr. Br. Goff,	3 00
	by cash of Jeduthan Adams, pr. mail,	1 00
April 10.	by cash of Cyrus Leach, 2 00	} per mail. 6 00
	by cash of Abram Northrop, 1 00	
	by cash of Andrew Bradley, 1 00	
	by cash of Judge Farnsworth, 2 00	
	by cash of A. B. Fanton, pr. mail,	1 00
May, 1818.	by cash of Thomas Hammond,	6 00
	by cash of Nath'l Cressey, pr. m. (agent)	8 00
July.	by cash of El. Meers, pr. El. Chamberl'n,	23 00
	by cash of Br. Isaac Merriam,	1 00
20.	by cash of Dea. Arnold,	1 00
	by cash of Dea. Merriam,	1 00
	by cash of John Conant, Esq.	4 00
	by interest on the balance,	18 02

October 1, 1818.	\$ 403 95 1-2
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The committee appointed last year to form an Education Society reported that they had formed a constitution, and presented it to the Association which was accepted.

Appointed Brother John Stearns, to write the Circular and Corresponding Letter next year.

Voted to hold our next Association in Hinesburgh, the first Wednesday of October, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Appointed Elder Green to preach the introductory Sermon. In case of failure, Elder Kendrick.

The Education Board to meet on Tuesday, 10 o'clock, P. M. at the house of brother James M'Ewen. And the Society to meet on Thursday, 8 o'clock, A. M.

At about 3 o'clock, the business of the Association being agreeably finished, the Moderator addressed the assembly in a very affectionate and solemn manner, and the whole was concluded by imploring the divine blessing on the association, and on Zion at large.

Brother Luther Rice then preached a sermon suited to the subject of missions, from *Acts 26, 25*. After which a liberal contribution was taken for missionary purposes.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Vermont Association to the Churches that we represent—

BELoved BRETHREN—We live in an extraordinary day. Peace so abundantly prevails among the nations that the dreadful calamity of war is almost banished from the civilized world. The inhabitants of christian lands begin to be stirred up to do something for the diffusion of gospel knowledge among those who sit in darkness. Have we not reason to believe that He, to whom the silver & the gold belongs, is now opening the hearts of men, to aid the bringing about those glorious designs which he has determined to accomplish? Let us deem it no small privilege that we are honoured with an opportunity of being workers together with God in the prosecution of this benevolent object. While we hope you will not forget your duty to maintain the gospel ministry at home; while we have the pleasure of seeing you patronize the mission to Birman; and while you kindly lend your aid to Education and Bible Societies, permit us to address a few words to you on the propriety of maintaining domestic missions among the destitute and needy in our own land: the expediency of which may be considered—

1. From the great need of such missionary labours.
2. From the encouragement we have to continue and enlarge them; and
3. From those considerations which show it to be a piece of genuine christian policy.

1. The need of domestic missionary labour arises from this fact, that thousands of precious souls bound to eternity, pass their lives in this christian land, with the opportunity of hearing very little evangelical preaching. Nor can they obtain supplies for several reasons, some of which we may mention. In the first place the number of faithful gospel minis-

ters are so few in comparison to the extent of field in which to labour, that according to rational calculation but about one fourth or one third of the places where Baptist preaching is wanted can be supplied.

2. Nearly all of those men whom God has called to stand upon the walls of Zion, are constantly employed with the people of their charge.

3. Whenever it occurs that a good minister is at liberty he is likely to feel convinced that it is his duty to engage with a people of respectability, and of good religious habits, where a prospect of permanent usefulness presents itself. And yet the souls of these destitute, are indescribably valuable, and if without the gospel salvation must perish.

II. We proceed to mention some of the encouragements you have to continue and increase domestic missions.

1. When your missionary, in the employment of the board visits those places, (with a few exceptions) the people with great engagedness hasten together to hear the word administered; small difficulties do not hinder them from the worship of God when an opportunity presents. When met they hear attentively, and often has the blessing of God been experienced. The scattered hungry sheep and lambs of Christ are fed, and their hearts are gladdened by the opportunity. Satan's kingdom is by this means weakened, and some of his subjects brought by divine power to the obedience of the faith.

Perhaps more than one half of the number of the Baptist churches in these United States, owe their origin, (under God) to the labours of missionaries. and of those too, whose circumstances were such as rendered it wholly impracticable to spend more time from their families and the little flocks of their charge, to blow the trumpet of the gospel in destitute places.

2. We may be encouraged to continue our efforts from this consideration, that where the missionary labours, the people generally feel themselves under peculiar obligation to those their benefactors, and they express it not merely by the compliment of verbal thanks, but contribute to the board by which they are employed, and in this way they are enabled to send like favors again, except in places where the people are really indigent or in seasons of distressing scarcity. And in this case the christian may reflect on the good

He communicates to the needy while the poor have the gospel preached unto them.

3. We would add to these considerations what our great apostle has said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." "To do good and to communicate, forget not, for with such sacrifices, God is well pleased." And with reference to the same liberality it is said, "he that soweth bountifully, shall reap also bountifully." And in connexion with this promise let us

4. Not forget that in many instances precious blessings have been experienced from the Holy Comforter, by those who when they were taking great pains to water others, have been watered themselves.

III. If any further arguments can be needed than those already named, they may be adduced from the examples which are set us in this particular by other denominations of christians. Our Congregational brethren are unremitting in their endeavors to help vacant places with missionary preaching, and we must acknowledge with much success. Our Methodist friends in America compose one vast missionary society, their exertions are unabating, their preachers travel and preach as missionaries, and has not their denomination vastly increased in these United States, within twenty five years past? Have we not reason to infer from this that the more these exertions are made by a christian denomination the greater will be its success. As christian Baptists we conscientiously believe our own denomination is more agreeable to the Apostolic order than either of those before mentioned. Shall we then not be as active as they? Ought we not to equal them and even to excel in faithful exertion to diffuse that system of faith and practice, which we believe to be more scriptural and more pure? Let us never give any occasion to the beholder to say, that those who exceed others in conformity to the scriptures in sentiment, are notwithstanding behind others, in their exertions to propogate them.

Are any indifferent or negligent? to such we would say suffer a word of exhortation. Rouse up, dear brethren, be not blind to the tears and deaf to the groans of those who are in such great need. Let every one be prayerful, let each feel interested, and so far as providence enables, let us be ready to communicate. *Bring your tithes into the store*

houses and prove the Lord therewith, and see if he will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The Vermont Association to the Association with whom we correspond, sendeth Christian salutation.

ESTEEMED FATHERS AND BRETHREN,

Among the many exertions making in the present day for advancing the interests of religion we have noticed the endeavours that some of you are undertaking, in order that indigent young men who are called of God to the ministry, may be charitably aided in obtaining such an education as will be calculated to promote their future usefulness.

We as an association, cordially approbate the design, and wish it may be useful.

We humbly pray that those persons who have the management of the matters committed to them, may have much wisdom given them from above; that the friends of Zion may afford their patronage; that many young men may be raised up by the spirit and providence of God for the ministerial work, that it may become evident, as we think it eventually will that the finger of God has pointed in Divine Providence to the undertaking, and that such as do not yet become convinced of its utility may ever use a prudent caution about speaking against it, lest it should be the unhappy case that they may hereafter find to their regret that they have laboured under a mistake, and had opposed one of those means by which their blessed saviour will advance his cause.

We prize the privilege of your correspondence and solicit its continuance.

By order of the association,

WILLIAM HERBERTON, Moderator.

JOSEPH W. SAWYER, Clerk.